

THE CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 prior to executing a search query to perform a search, displaying a user interface on a
3 display, the user interface displaying a graphical representation of the search query,
4 the graphical representation including at least a numerical preview indication of the
5 expected size of a dataset resulting from application of at least a portion of the query.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying of the user interface includes at least
2 displaying a graphical preview of the expected size of the dataset.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying of the user interface includes at least
2 displaying icons including at least:
3 a first icon representing a first filter; and
4 a second icon representing a second filter; and
5 wherein
6 the first filter precedes the second filter in the search query, and
7 the dataset, of the numerical preview, results from the first filter and any
8 preceding filters.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, the displaying of the user interface includes at least
2 displaying at least two icons representing filters; and
3 displaying dataflow lines connecting the at least two icons.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying of the user interface includes at least
2 displaying a graphical preview indication that is a visually distinct region located
3 in a proximity to an icon representing a filter, the region having a thickness
4 representative of an expected size of the dataset.

1 6. A method comprising:
2 prior to executing a search query to perform a search, displaying a user interface on a
3 display, the user interface displaying a graphical representation of the search query,
4 the graphical representation including at least a graphical preview indication of an
5 expected size of a dataset resulting from application of at least a portion of the query,
6 the graphical preview indication being a visually distinct region having a shape
7 suggestive of a funnel.

1 7. A method comprising:
2 prior to executing a search query to perform a search, displaying a user interface on a
3 display, the user interface displaying a graphical representation of the search query,
4 the graphical representation including at least
5 a first graphical preview indication that is a first visually distinct region, having a
6 first starting width and a first ending width, the first visually distinct region
7 being located in a proximity to a first icon representing a first filter, and the
8 first ending width having a width that is representative of an expected size of a
9 first dataset; and
10 a second graphical preview indication that is a second visually distinct region,
11 having a second starting width and a second ending width, the second visually
12 distinct region being located in a proximity to a second icon representing a
13 second filter, the second ending width having a width that is representative of
14 an expected size of a second dataset, the second visually distinct region being
15 adjacent to the first visually distinct region, the width of the second starting
16 width being equal to the first ending width.

1 8. A method comprising:
2 prior to executing a search query to perform a search, displaying a user interface on a
3 display, the user interface displaying a graphical representation of the search query,

4 the graphical representation including at least an icon that is a group icon representing
5 a group of filters of the search query.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the group icon can be opened, and therein display:
2 a group of icons corresponding to the group of filters, and
3 dataflow lines connecting icons of the group of icons, the dataflow lines and the
4 icons of the group of icons being arranged to indicate an order of application
5 of filters of the group of filters.

1 10. A method comprising:
2 prior to executing a search query to perform a search, displaying a user interface on a
3 display, the user interface displaying a graphical representation of the search query,
4 the graphical representation including at least
5 a first icon representing a first filter associated with the search query, and
6 a second icon representing a second filter associated with the search query;
7 receiving input regarding a new location of the first icon; and
8 determining which logical operator to apply based upon a relative positioning of the first
9 icon with respect to the second icon.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein:
2 if the new location of the first icon is substantially vertically aligned with the
3 second icon, a Boolean OR operator is applied; and
4 if the new location of first icon is substantially horizontally aligned with the
5 second icon, a Boolean AND operator is applied.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
2 in response to the input, displaying a textual indication of a type of logical
3 operator associated with the new location of the first icon.

1 13. A method comprising:
2 displaying a user interface on a display, the user interface displaying a graphical
3 representation of the search query, the graphical representation including at least a
4 representation of a logical NOT operator.

1 14. A method comprising:
2 displaying a user interface on a display, the user interface displaying graphical
3 representations of a search query, wherein at least one or more portions of the search
4 query are divided into one or more query steps, each of the one or more query steps
5 corresponding to a portion of the search query, each of the one or more query steps
6 including one or more attributes;
7 receiving user input that specifies a value for one attribute of the one or more attributes of
8 one query step of the one or more query steps; and
9 in response to the user input, performing an action on a portion of the search query
10 corresponding to the one query step, the action being based on the value of the one
11 attribute.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the performing of the action includes
2 independently disabling the one query step without removing the components of the
3 one query step from the query representation, thereby disabling any portion of the
4 search query corresponding to the one query step.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein:
2 the one or more query steps are arranged in an order according to a query flow; and
3 each query step is combined with other portions of the search query using Boolean logic.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the query steps are numbered according to an order
2 in which the query steps are applied.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more query steps are a plurality of query
2 steps that are arranged in an order, and the order is alterable by dragging to a new
3 location and dropping a query step selected from the plurality of query steps.

1 19. The method of claim 14 further comprising creating within a query step a group icon
2 representing a container for, and having contained within, a group of icons
3 representing a group of filters associated with a portion of the search query.

1 20. The method of claim 14 further comprising displaying a graphical representation of a
2 search query for a multidimensional database.

1 21. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 1.

1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 2.

1 23. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 3.

1 24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 4.

1 25. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 5.

1 26. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 6.

1 27. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 7.

1 28. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 8.

1 29. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 9.

1 30. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 10.

1 31. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 11.

1 32. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 12.

1 33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 13.

1 34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 14.

1 35. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 15.

1 36. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 16.

1 37. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 17.

1 38. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 18.

1 39. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 19.

1 40. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,
2 when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to
3 perform the method recited in Claim 20.